

# Topic 1: Regulatory Framework Under RPS

Manny Macatangay
Senior Economist
Economists Incorporated
Direct (510) 420-5625
http://www.ei.com

#### **Discussion Points**

- Legislative Mandate
- Status & Prospects of Regulation Under RPS
  - Overview
  - US Experience
  - Hawaii Experience
- Comparing Hawaii to Other Jurisdictions



## Legislative Mandate

### **Legislative Mandate**

- Formulate an electric utility rate design that
  - Enables the achievement of renewable portfolio standards
  - Encourages investments in renewable energy facilities
  - Conforms to existing or alternative regulatory regimes
  - Provides utilities an opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return

Time frame: December 31, 2006

#### **End Result of All This Work**

A document

- Forming the basis of a set of rules for adoption in a future conventional rulemaking process
- Providing inputs to the Commission's decisions on electric utility ratemaking

### **Overview of Modeling**

- Comprehensive coverage & simultaneous analysis of issues in legislative mandate
- Incorporation of lessons learned on electric utility rate design
  - Under various RPS schemes
  - Under various PBR regimes
- Simulation of Hawaii power market using computer models

### **Modeling the Legislative Mandate**

- RPS: taken as given input
- Investment entry: output
- Existing or alternative regulatory regimes: taken as a given input
- Electric utility rate design: output
- Utility financial impact: output



# Status & Prospects of Regulation Under RPS

#### **Overview**

- Renewables electricity generation
  - Expected to increase from 304 billion kWh in 2002 to 460 billion kWh in 2025 (1.8% growth)
  - Expected to maintain a 9% share in 2025
- Benefits of increasing renewable energy use
  - Supply uncertainty & price volatility of oil & traditional energy commodities
  - Pollution

### **Policy Trends**

 Encouragement of renewables since the 1970's oil crisis

Energy efficiency

RPS

### Viability of Renewables

#### Solar

- Nanotechnology
- Limited contribution to the grid through 2025

#### Wind

- Tax credit \$0.018/kWh
- Project financing
- 2006 levelized cost of \$0.045/kWh to \$0.057/kWh

### **US Experience**

16 States with RPS

2 States with renewable goals or RPS-type legislation

Quantification & pricing of externalities

### Hawaii Experience

- 2002 shares in capacity mix
  - 80% oil
  - 9% coal
- 2002 average retail price: \$0.1339/kWh
- RPS goals
  - Reduce prices
  - Contribute to energy security
  - Protect the environment



# Comparing Hawaii to Other Jurisdictions

### **Goal of Comparisons**

- Various alternatives for renewable energy
- Potential, through the RPS, for encouraging investments in renewables
- Understand the critical factors underlying successful RPS schemes elsewhere
- Use this understanding as inputs to the formulation of electric utility rate designs



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